

House File 687 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE _____
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 26)

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to certain reporting requirements or actions
2 required of the department of education, school districts,
3 accredited nonpublic schools, and community colleges.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:
5 TLSB 1232HV 83
6 kh/nh/5

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1 1 Section 1. Section 256.7, subsection 21, paragraph c, Code
1 2 2009, is amended to read as follows:
1 3 c. A requirement that all school districts and accredited
1 4 nonpublic schools annually report to the department and the
1 5 local community the district-wide progress made in attaining
1 6 student achievement goals on the academic and other core
1 7 indicators and the district-wide progress made in attaining
1 8 locally established student learning goals. The school
1 9 districts and accredited nonpublic schools shall demonstrate
1 10 the use of multiple assessment measures in determining student
1 11 achievement levels. The school districts and accredited
1 12 nonpublic schools shall also report the number of students who
1 13 graduate, ~~utilizing the definition of graduation rate~~
~~1 14 specified by the national governors association; the number of~~
1 15 ~~students who drop out of school; the number of students~~
~~1 16 pursuing a high school equivalency diploma pursuant to chapter~~
~~1 17 259A; the number of students who were enrolled in the district~~
~~1 18 within the past five years and who received a high school~~
~~1 19 equivalency diploma; the percentage of students who receive a~~
~~1 20 high school diploma and who were not proficient in reading,~~
~~1 21 mathematics, and science in grade eleven; the number of~~
~~1 22 students in the prior year who were enrolled as high school~~
~~1 23 juniors who are within four units of meeting the district's~~
~~1 24 graduation requirements; the number of students who are tested~~
1 25 ~~and the percentage of students who are so tested annually; and~~
1 26 ~~the percentage of students who graduated during the prior~~
1 27 ~~school year and who completed a core curriculum. The board~~
1 28 ~~shall develop and adopt uniform definitions consistent with~~
1 29 ~~the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Pub. L. No.~~
1 30 ~~107-110 and any federal regulations adopted pursuant to the~~
1 31 ~~federal Act. The school districts and accredited nonpublic~~
1 32 ~~schools may report on other locally determined factors~~
1 33 ~~influencing student achievement. The school districts and~~
1 34 ~~accredited nonpublic schools shall also report to the local~~
1 35 ~~community their results by individual attendance center.~~
2 1 Sec. 2. Section 256.9, subsections 24, 28, and 43, Code
2 2 2009, are amended by striking the subsections.
2 3 Sec. 3. Section 256.18, subsection 3, Code 2009, is
2 4 amended by striking the subsection.
2 5 Sec. 4. Section 256D.1, subsection 1, paragraph b,
2 6 subparagraph (1), Code 2009, is amended to read as follows:
2 7 (1) A school district shall at a minimum biannually inform
2 8 parents of their individual child's performance on the
2 9 diagnostic assessments in kindergarten through grade three.
2 10 If intervention is appropriate, the school district shall
2 11 inform the parents of the actions the school district intends
2 12 to take to improve the child's reading skills and provide the
2 13 parents with strategies to enable the parents to improve their
2 14 child's skills. ~~If the diagnostic assessments administered in~~
~~2 15 accordance with this subsection indicate that a child is~~
~~2 16 reading below grade level, the school district shall submit a~~
~~2 17 report of the assessment results to the parent, which the~~

2 18 parent shall sign and return to the school district. If the
2 19 ~~parent does not sign or return the report, the school district~~
2 20 ~~shall note in the student's record the inaction on the part of~~
2 21 ~~the parent.~~ The board of directors of each school district
2 22 shall adopt a policy indicating the methods the school
2 23 district will use to inform parents of their individual
2 24 child's performance.

2 25 Sec. 5. Section 257.30, unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2009,
2 26 is amended to read as follows:
2 27 A school budget review committee is established in the
2 28 department of education and consists of the director of the
2 29 department of education, the director of the department of
2 30 management, and three members who are knowledgeable in the
2 31 areas of Iowa school finance or public finance issues
2 32 appointed by the governor to represent the public. At least
2 33 one of the public members shall possess a master's or doctoral
2 34 degree in which areas of school finance, economics, or
2 35 statistics are an integral component, or shall have equivalent
3 1 experience in an executive administrative or senior research
3 2 position in the education or public administration field. The
3 3 members appointed by the governor shall serve staggered
3 4 three-year terms beginning and ending as provided in section
3 5 69.19 and are subject to senate confirmation as provided in
3 6 section 2.32. The committee shall meet and hold hearings each
3 7 year and shall continue in session until it has reviewed
3 8 budgets of school districts, as provided in section 257.31.
3 9 ~~It~~ The committee may call in school board members and
3 10 employees as necessary for the hearings. The committee's
3 11 scheduled hearing agendas and the minutes of such hearings
3 12 shall be posted on the department of education's internet
3 13 website. Legislators shall be notified of hearings concerning
3 14 school districts in their ~~constituencies~~ legislative
3 15 districts.

3 16 Sec. 6. Section 257.31, subsection 2, Code 2009, is
3 17 amended to read as follows:
3 18 2. The committee shall ~~report to each session of the~~
3 19 ~~general assembly, which report shall include any recommended~~
3 20 ~~changes in laws relating to school districts, and shall~~
3 21 specify the number of hearings held annually, the reasons for
3 22 the committee's recommendations, information about the amounts
3 23 of property tax levied by school districts for a cash reserve,
3 24 and other information the committee deems advisable on the
3 25 department of education's internet website.

3 26 Sec. 7. Section 260C.14, subsection 21, Code 2009, is
3 27 amended by striking the subsection.

3 28 Sec. 8. Section 279.56, unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2009,
3 29 is amended to read as follows:
3 30 If funds are appropriated by the general assembly, the
3 31 board of directors of a school district may obtain permission
3 32 to participate in the teacher exchange program by making
3 33 application in writing to the department of education, on
3 34 forms provided by the department, by November 1 of the school
3 35 year preceding the year that the district wishes to
4 1 participate. Each district participating in the program shall
4 2 prescribe standards and procedures explaining the district's
4 3 expectations and requirements for each participating teacher.
4 4 The district's standards and procedures shall also prescribe
4 5 the method and form by which teachers within the district may
4 6 apply to the board for permission to participate in the
4 7 program. Each participating district shall continue to
4 8 compensate the program participant at the same rate that the
4 9 participant would be compensated if the participant had
4 10 continued the participant's instructional or other duties
4 11 within the home district. Each participating district shall
4 12 report to the department the number and performance of
4 13 exchange teachers from other districts that are included in
4 14 the district's instructional staff during the relevant periods
4 15 during the school year. ~~The department shall summarize the~~
4 16 ~~information and include it in the report submitted under~~
4 17 ~~section 256.9, subsection 28.~~

4 18 Sec. 9. Section 279.63, subsection 3, Code 2009, is
4 19 amended to read as follows:
4 20 3. Copies of a school district's financial report for the
4 21 previous school year shall be posted on an internet website
4 22 maintained by the school district at the beginning by January
4 23 1 of the each school year. If the school district does not
4 24 maintain or develop ~~a~~ an internet website, the school district
4 25 shall either distribute or post written copies of the
4 26 financial report at specified locations throughout the school
4 27 district.

4 28 Sec. 10. Section 282.24, subsection 1, unnumbered

4 29 paragraphs 2 and 3, Code 2009, are amended to read as follows:
4 30 A school corporation which owns facilities used as
4 31 attendance centers for students shall maintain an itemized
4 32 statement of the appraised value of all buildings owned by the
4 33 school corporation. ~~Beginning July 1, 1976, the~~ The appraisal
4 34 shall be updated at least ~~one time~~ once every five years.

~~4 35 The director of the department of education shall, after
5 1 July 1 but before September 1 of each year, notify every
5 2 school in the state, affected by this section, what the
5 3 computed maximum tuition rate shall be for the ensuing year.~~

5 4 Sec. 11. Section 298.6, Code 2009, is amended to read as
5 5 follows:

5 6 298.6 PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF OUTSTANDING LEVIES.

5 7 The board of directors of a school district shall, prior to
5 8 certifying any levy by board approval, or submitting a levy
5 9 for voter approval, facilitate public access to a complete
5 10 listing of all outstanding levies within the school district
5 11 by rate, amount, duration, and the applicable maximum levy
5 12 limitations. The information relating to outstanding levies
5 13 shall be posted on an internet website maintained by the
5 14 school district ~~at the beginning by January 1 of the each~~
5 15 school year, and updated prior to board approval or submission
5 16 for voter approval of any levy during the school year. If the
5 17 school district does not maintain or develop ~~a~~ an internet
5 18 website, the school district shall either distribute or post
5 19 written copies of the listing at specified locations
5 20 throughout the school district.

5 21 Sec. 12. Section 301.28, Code 2009, is amended to read as
5 22 follows:

5 23 301.28 OFFICERS AND TEACHERS AS AGENTS FOR BOOKS AND
5 24 SUPPLIES == PENALTY.

~~5 25 1. It shall be unlawful for any A school director,
5 26 officer, area education director or teacher to shall not act
5 27 as agent for any school textbooks or school supplies,
5 28 including sports apparel or equipment, in any transaction with
5 29 a director, officer, or other staff member of the school
5 30 district during such term of office or employment, and any.~~

~~5 31 2. An area education agency director, officer, or teacher
5 32 shall not act as an agent for school textbooks or school
5 33 supplies, including sports apparel or equipment, in any
5 34 transaction with a director, officer, or other staff member of
5 35 the area education agency or any school district located
6 1 within the area education agency during such time of office or
6 2 employment.~~

~~6 3 3. A school district or area education agency director,
6 4 officer, area education director or teacher, who shall act
6 5 acts as agent or dealer in school textbooks or school
6 6 supplies, during the person's term of such office or
6 7 employment, in violation of this section shall be deemed
6 8 guilty of a serious misdemeanor.~~

6 9 Sec. 13. Section 669.14, subsection 14, Code 2009, is
6 10 amended by striking the subsection.

6 11 Sec. 14. Sections 258.13, 279.14A, and 299.16, Code 2009,
6 12 are repealed.

6 13 EXPLANATION

6 14 This bill reduces or eliminates certain paperwork and
6 15 reporting requirements for the department of education, school
6 16 districts, and accredited nonpublic schools.

6 17 The bill makes changes to Code provisions as follows:

6 18 REPORTING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT. The bill amends Code
6 19 section 256.7, subsection 21, paragraph c, to eliminate
6 20 requirements that school districts and accredited nonpublic
6 21 schools report graduation rates based on the definition
6 22 specified by the national governors association; and the
6 23 number of students pursuing and receiving a high school
6 24 equivalency diploma, the percentage of students receiving a
6 25 high school diploma who were not proficient in core areas by
6 26 grade 11, and the number of high school juniors who, in the
6 27 prior year, were within four units of meeting graduation
6 28 requirements.

6 29 DUTIES OF THE DIRECTOR. The bill strikes Code section
6 30 256.9, subsection 24, which requires the director of the
6 31 department of education to report biennially to the governor
6 32 the condition of public schools and school districts. The
6 33 director was also required to include in the report a review
6 34 of the department's programs and services.

6 35 The bill strikes Code section 256.9, subsection 28, which
7 1 requires the director to prepare and submit to the general
7 2 assembly a report containing the recommendations of the state
7 3 board as to revisions, amendments, and new provisions of
7 4 school laws. The bill includes a conforming amendment to Code

7 5 section 279.56, subsection 1, to strike language requiring the
7 6 department to summarize teacher exchange program information
7 7 and include it in the report to the general assembly; and
7 8 repeals obsolete Code section 299.16, which references Code
7 9 section 256.9, subsection 28.

7 10 The bill strikes Code section 256.9, subsection 43, which
7 11 requires the director to prepare a plan and a report for
7 12 ensuring that all Iowa children will be able to satisfy the
7 13 requirements for high school graduation.

7 14 CHARACTER EDUCATION INITIATIVE. The bill strikes Code
7 15 section 256.18, subsection 3, which requires the department to
7 16 report to the state board and the general assembly regarding
7 17 the success of any character education initiative.

7 18 IOWA EARLY INTERVENTION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM. The bill
7 19 strikes a provision in Code section 256D.1, subsection 1,
7 20 paragraph b, subparagraph (1), which requires, if a child's
7 21 performance on diagnostic assessments in kindergarten through
7 22 grade three indicate the child is reading below grade level, a
7 23 school district to submit a report to the child's parent or
7 24 guardian and requires the parent or guardian to sign and
7 25 return the report.

7 26 SCHOOL BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE. The bill amends Code
7 27 section 257.30, unnumbered paragraph 1, to add a requirement
7 28 that the department post on its internet website an agenda of
7 29 the committee's scheduled hearings and minutes.

7 30 The bill also amends Code section 257.31, subsection 2, to
7 31 strike a requirement that the committee report to each session
7 32 of the general assembly, and to add a requirement that the
7 33 committee provide certain information on the department's
7 34 internet website.

7 35 COMMUNITY COLLEGE GED STUDENT INFORMATION REQUESTS. The
8 1 bill strikes Code section 260C.14, subsection 21, which
8 2 requires that the board of directors of a community college
8 3 request students pursuing or receiving a high school
8 4 equivalency diploma to identify their school districts of
8 5 residence and the last year in which they were enrolled in
8 6 their school district. The stricken provision requires the
8 7 community college to annually report the information to the
8 8 school districts.

8 9 ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT FINANCIAL REPORT. The bill amends
8 10 Code section 279.63, subsection 3, to require that copies of
8 11 the previous school year's financial report be posted on the
8 12 school district's internet website by January 1 rather than
8 13 the beginning of the school year.

8 14 NOTIFICATION OF THE MAXIMUM SCHOOL DISTRICT TUITION FEE.
8 15 The bill amends Code section 282.24, subsection 1, unnumbered
8 16 paragraphs 2 and 3, to eliminate a requirement that the
8 17 director of the department notify every school district what
8 18 the computed maximum tuition rate will be for the ensuing
8 19 year, and to make a nonsubstantive change in the language.

8 20 PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF OUTSTANDING LEVIES. The bill amends
8 21 Code section 298.6, to change the date by which outstanding
8 22 levies must be posted on a school district's internet website
8 23 from the beginning of the school year to January 1 of each
8 24 school year.

8 25 OFFICERS AND TEACHERS AS AGENTS FOR BOOKS AND SUPPLIES ==
8 26 PENALTY. The bill prohibits school district directors,
8 27 officers, and teachers from acting as agents for school
8 28 textbooks or school supplies, including sports apparel or
8 29 equipment, in any transaction with a director, officer, or
8 30 other staff member of the school district. The bill also
8 31 prohibits the area education agency directors, officers, and
8 32 teachers from acting as agents for school textbooks or school
8 33 supplies, including sports apparel or equipment, in any
8 34 transaction with an AEA director, officer, or other staff
8 35 member or with any director, officer, or other staff member of
9 1 any school district located within the AEA. The bill retains
9 2 the current serious misdemeanor penalty established in the
9 3 Code for violating the provision.

9 4 REPEALS. The bill repeals Code section 258.13, which
9 5 requires the director of the department of education to make a
9 6 full report of all receipts and expenditures under the
9 7 vocational education chapter, together with such observations
9 8 relative to vocational education as may be deemed of value.

9 9 The bill also repeals Code section 279.14A, which requires
9 10 the director to establish and implement a voluntary
9 11 practitioner performance improvement program to provide
9 12 technical assistance to teachers and administrators from each
9 13 school district and area education agency. The bill includes
9 14 a conforming amendment to strike Code section 669.14,
9 15 subsection 14.

9 16 LSB 1232HV 83
9 17 kh/nh/5